

Application No. 10/680,307
Amendment Dated 5/5/2006
Reply to Office Action of 02/07/2006

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-28 are presently pending. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 12-18, 23-25, and 27 are currently amended.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing the patentability of claims 19-22 in the Office Action. The Examiner indicated that claims 23-24 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 23 and 24 to depend on claim 22 to correct the antecedent basis problems noted in the Office Action.

Claims 1-18 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular, the Office Action bases the enablement rejection on an alleged lack of disclosure related to (a) "how the so-called preferential composite path plan is being formed based upon the established perimeter path plan, region-filling path plan and the point-to-point path plan," and (b) "correlation between the preferential composite path plan and each of the aforementioned established path plans." This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

With respect to above item a, claim 1 and claim 25 now recite that the preferential composite path plan is formed as follows: "by estimating candidate path distances of corresponding candidate composite paths and selecting a shortest candidate path as the preferential composite path." With respect to item a, the amended claim language is supported in paragraphs 50 through 53 of the specification, as filed, and elsewhere.

With respect to above item b, claim 1 and claim 25 now explains the correlation or relationship between preferential composite path plan and the perimeter path plan, the region-filling path plan, and the point to point path plan. In particular, claim 1 and claim 25 clarify that the preferential composite path plan comprises "a list or ordered assembly of the segments" of the aforementioned path plans. Further, each segment is "curved or straight and defined by a start point, an end point, and an arc radius." With respect to item b, the amended claim language is supported in paragraphs 41-53, for example. For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the section 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 1 and 25. Further, because claims 2 through 18 depend upon

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claim 1, claims 2-18 are patentable for at least similar reasons to claim 1. Because claims 26-28 depend upon claim 25, claims 26-28 are patentable for at least similar reasons to claim 25.

Claims 1-18 and 23-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for various reasons. Applicants generally adopted the recommendations of the Examiner to cure antecedent basis problems, except for claim 16 in which reference is made to "point-to-point path" instead of "the preferential composite path" as recommended. Further, Applicants changed the dependency of several dependent claims to resolve antecedent basis issues. With respect to claim 3 and claim 27, the claims have been amended to recite "each candidate composite path plan comprises a list of the segments for evaluation." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the section 112, second paragraph, rejections.

Claim 7 was amended to clarify that "the segments" refers to the segments of claim 6 "that intercept the critical data points" and not to overcome any cited prior art reference. Claim 13 was amended to clarify that the "path plan" referred to a "point-to-point path plan" and not to overcome any cited prior art reference.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

Respectfully,



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